

# AORN Recognition Program Overview

## Introduction

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) has developed a comprehensive review and recognition process (AORN Recognition Program) to assist healthcare professionals in selecting quality training and in-service programs that promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures.

The AORN *Seal of Recognition* ensures that training and in-service programs presented in seminars, publications, web-based programs, or other resources is sound, reliable and, when related to perioperative practice, are based on *AORN Standards and Recommended Practices*.

**Training and in-service materials submitted for review through the AORN Recognition Program are considered promotional and commercial in nature and therefore do not meet the ANCC Criteria for continuing education contact hours.**

The AORN Seal of Recognition provides a visual representation and confirmation that the content of training and in-service programs has satisfied a review by AORN according to the *AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices*. The seal is intended to convey to end-users, customers and others that the content has met AORN standards.

**NOTE:** AORN does not endorse any commercial product or service, nor is the AORN Recognition Program a review of such product or service. The AORN Recognition Program only reviews the content associated with training and in-service programs and is separate from the AORN, ANCC Accredited Provider Unit and therefore does not include any CE credit for programs. Continuing education courses that provide contact hours are not applicable for the AORN Recognition Program.

## Definitions

AORN Seal of Recognition – The seal is awarded to training and in-service materials that have been reviewed by AORN and meet the *AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices*.

AORN Recognition Program – The entire process by which AORN receives, reviews, and awards content submitted for the AORN Seal of Recognition.

AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices – AORN's document for perioperative practice that presents AORN's official positions and recommendations from professional practice standards to laser safety, from competency statements to aseptic technique, from clinical pathways to patient safety. Also included are standards on moderate sedation, safe environment of care, unplanned perioperative hypothermia, patient positioning, sterilization, skin prep, and surgical instruments and powered equipment. All Training programs vetted through the AORN Recognition Program will be compared against this document. [www.aorn.org/psrp](http://www.aorn.org/psrp)

Applicant(s) – Organizations, institutions, facilities, individuals, etc., that submit training and /or in-service material through the AORN Recognition Program for use of the AORN Seal of Recognition.

Training – Any training or in-service program that is submitted for review through the AORN Recognition Program. Training refers to a sole training program or title and is not defined herein as a representation of a series or grouping of training activities or titles. Different formats, e.g., operator's manual, DVD, webinar, etc., of the Training may be submitted without incurring additional fees.

## The Value of the AORN Seal of Recognition

For providers of health care training and in-service programs, the AORN Seal of Recognition is a valuable symbol as it provides acknowledgment that your program is a premier and recognized resource for perioperative nurses. AORN is considered an authority throughout the perioperative community on safe operating room practices, evidence-based practices, perioperative research, and guiding principles that support day-to-day perioperative nursing practice. The AORN Seal of Recognition will communicate to over 43,000 AORN members and the rest of the perioperative nursing community that your program is dedicated that same excellence in safe patient care.

Programs offered through the AORN Recognition Program may satisfy the in-service training requirements for healthcare facilities as outlined in the Joint Commission Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The *Official Handbook* (CAMH Standard HR. 2.30 §2-6 and HR 3.10 §5-6) and in the organizational policies and procedures of the various ambulatory accreditation associations, such as the AAAHC and the AAAASF, and individual state accreditation organizations.

## Submission Guidelines

The AORN Recognition Program is limited to training and in-service activity content that meet the following criteria:

- Related to advancing perioperative practice
- Developed around the **Safe Use** of equipment and/or products used in the perioperative setting.
- Conforms to *AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices* (most current edition)

Suitable examples for AORN Recognition include, but are not limited to

- Training and in-service seminars and conferences
- Journal articles, textbooks, monographs, and independent study modules
- Training and in-service web programs, webinars, and on-line activities
- Training and in-service manuals intended for patients, consumers, and/or professionals
- Electronic media (DVDs, CD-ROMs, etc.)
- Operator's manual or user guide

## Application Review Process

Each application is reviewed by members of a peer group of registered nurses, each holding a Bachelor of Science or higher degree in nursing and who AORN has determined are experts in perioperative nursing.

### Applying for Recognition

Those applying for the AORN Recognition Program must submit the following through the online process:

1. Completed online application (which includes a brief description of the training or in-service program and related objectives)
2. Credit Card deposit of \$1000. Remaining \$5000 will be invoiced upon receipt of application.
3. Final draft copy of the complete training or in-service package(s) in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or PDF format. Links to training or in-service programs for website review are also accepted.
4. Final draft(s) in pdf of the proposed promotional and training materials that will feature the AORN Seal of Recognition (these may be submitted after the application has been accepted prior to the launch of the activity).

Applicants seeking AORN Recognition will be notified within six weeks of receipt of the materials for review. The notification will indicate if the application was awarded the AORN Seal of Recognition or it will provide recommended changes to the training or in-service program. The applicant has the choice to make the changes and resubmit for a second (and final) review or withdraw the application. There will be no refunds if the application is not awarded the AORN Seal of Recognition.

Terms and Conditions

If the AORN Seal of Recognition is awarded, the applicant must agree to the following terms and conditions in order to use the Seal:

1. Applicant understands that AORN does not endorse any commercial product or service, nor is the AORN Recognition Program a review of such product or service.
2. AORN will have final approval of all statements attributed to AORN
3. AORN will be adequately assured of protection against liability
4. The AORN Seal of Recognition will be in effect for a one-year period with an option to renew or reapply. If Training is not renewed, all uses of the AORN Seal of Recognition will be discontinued or destroyed.
5. Applicant will follow the *AORN Seal of Recognition Requirements for Logo Usage* for advertising, marketing and promotion of their training and in-service programs.

Recognition Period

The AORN Seal of Recognition is valid for one year from the time the seal is awarded. To continue use of the Seal after the initial one year period, applicant may pay the renewal fee (if eligible) or submit for reapplication. Reapplication is required if the Training content or the related Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices have changed from when the application was initial reviewed. If renewal or reapplication does not occur after a 90-day grace period, all program materials bearing the Seal must be discontinued and destroyed. If the Applicant chooses to have the Training renewed after the one-year time period and the subsequent 90 days has expired, the AORN Seal of Recognition shall not be used in the interim while the Training is being reviewed.

**Fee Structure**

Fees as designated below must be received by AORN prior to the initiation of the clinical review period for each Training package submitted. All fees are due at the time of invoice and are non-refundable.

Description	Fee
AORN Seal of Recognition Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical review and recommendations</li><li>• Second (and final) clinical review, if applicable</li></ul>	\$6000, includes \$1000 credit card deposit
If application is awarded the AORN Seal of Recognition, AORN will provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electronic file of the AORN Seal of Recognition logo</li><li>• Rights to display the logo (per the terms outlined in the agreement) for one year</li><li>• A 1-year listing on the AORN Seal of Recognition Directory</li></ul>	included
Renewal fee: Annual fee to continue use of the AORN Seal of Recognition	\$1500